

Passionate About Our Future:

5th Annual NH Guard Kids Camp gives direction and skills

Story and photo by Marissa Berry, NHNG-PA

NEW BOSTON – Eighty-six boys and girls from across the state enjoyed a week of summer camp geared specifically toward their special bond of being the sons and daughters of NH citizen soldiers and airmen.

“This is not just a camp for kids to come and have fun,” said Lt. Col. Richard Greenwood, director of the NH National Guard’s Counter Drug Task Force which established the camp five years ago. “We hold the camp each year to teach children and young adults that they can make healthy choices in life and that harmful choices can be avoided.”



The primary message of the day camp was drug prevention, but it also focused on life skills.

Archery, compass reading, fire and medical safety along with fishing, rock climbing, digital photography and crafts are among the many courses offered.

“At least once a year, you hear about a child getting lost in the woods,” said Capt. Matthew Boucher, a member of the Counter Drug team who was teaching the compass course. “This course teaches kids how to find direction, how to find how far they can go.”

It’s been a winning combination for the kids, many of whom have returned to the camp for the third and fourth summer.

“I liked the whole experience,” said 11-year-old Grant Munson. “It’s fun.”

Grant was among a group of campers who assured a visitor that they would be back next year with a resounding “Yes!”

The children are reporting earlier and earlier to the buses that take them to the camp each morning from locations around the state, said Staff Sgt. Janet Dow. “They used to show up just before the buses were scheduled to leave. Now they are coming up to a half hour before.”

The camp, which is not state or federally funded, relies primarily on volunteers and the support of the Counter Drug staff, Greenwood said.

Instructors from New Hampshire Fish and Game, the state Fire Academy and Eastern Mountain Sports contributed their expertise as well as NH soldiers and airmen.

“We are always looking for people to volunteer,” Greenwood said. “People with a passion for kids.”